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Letter dated 6 February 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 29 January 2018, whereby the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Jens Stoltenberg, submits the report on the international security presence in Kosovo for the period from 1 October to 31 December 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), please find enclosed the quarterly report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2017 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the activities of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) during the period from 1 October to 31 December 2017.

2. As at 31 December 2017, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained approximately 4,100, from 21 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and 8 non-NATO troop-contributing countries.

3. There were no major security incidents during the reporting period and no requirement for KFOR intervention.

Security situation update and operations

4. The reporting period brought no significant changes to the overall security situation in Kosovo, which remained generally stable but fragile, without major disturbances of the safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

5. During the reporting period, KFOR conducted routine framework operations across the area of operations, with joint regional detachments maintaining close contact with the population. In support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as mandated in resolution 1244 (1999), KFOR contributed to the effective execution of the local elections on 22 October and 19 November 2017. KFOR conducted increased presence patrols in the vicinity of the most important polling stations to address potential security concerns. No major irregularities or incidents were reported.

6. KFOR continues its close cooperation with both the Kosovo police and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). One example is the biannual KFOR-led Silver Sabre exercise, which was last conducted in October 2017 with other security providers in Kosovo, namely, EULEX, the Kosovo Security Force, the Kosovo police and the Emergency Management Agency, in Pristina in the vicinity of KFOR camps. The exercise focused on the interoperability of participants in planning and executing civil disturbance management and emergency disaster relief operations.

7. In November 2017, as part of the efforts to maintain an effective force posture in sensitive areas and to ensure an immediate response if required, KFOR conducted operational rehearsal activities within its normal training cycle in order to verify the readiness of the operational reserve forces.

Summary

8. KFOR continues to contribute both to maintaining a safe and secure environment and to ensuring freedom of movement as part of a comprehensive international effort. The close coordination at the tactical level between KFOR in its capacity as third responder, EULEX and the Kosovo police continues to be highly effective.